

Christ Our Example

Philippians 2

The theme or main point of Philippians is found in

Philippians 1:27–30 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The rest of Philippians is Paul expounding upon this truth. Philippians is not a letter written to correct error in the church rather to remind them of what I means to live a life worthy of the gospel.

The essentials

The example

The exhortation

The extras

The Essentials of Humility

Philippians 2:1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

The encouragement of Christ. What God says about me.

Encouragement (paraklēsis): to cause someone to be encouraged or consoled, either by verbal or non-verbal means

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 305).

United Bible Societies.

Love

John 13:34–35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Romans 12:10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Christians have a duty to see more than another Christian’s faults. Christians must also see the person, and they must love him or her with a love patterned on the love with which God the Father loves us. The person who really loves the other Christian in this way will not seek to separate from him because he is cantankerous or because she sees some minor doctrine differently. He will seek to know him, to learn from him, and to help him on spiritually as together they advance in the Christian life.

Boice, J. M. (2000). [*Philippians: an expositional commentary*](#) (pp. 99–100). Baker Books.

Participation (koinōnia): communion; fellowship

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Affection and sympathy

Compassion in the bowels or inner self

Colossians 3:12 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts,

Single mindedness

Philippians 2:2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Mind (phroneō): have an attitude; set one’s mind on; think in a particular manner

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Philippians 2:3–4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

The Example of Christ

Philippians 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

1 Corinthians 2:16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be *grasped*,

[This verse is explained for us in 7 and 8](#)

Philippians 2:7 but emptied himself, by *taking the form of a servant*, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in human form, he *humbled himself by becoming obedient* to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:9–11 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

The Exhortation to Humility

Philippians 2:12–13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” does not refer primarily to the salvation of individual believers but to working out our salvation within the church, the body of Christ. The application of this text is first *corporate* (how the church must conduct itself) and then *individual*. This is a *both/and* text that focuses first on the communal conduct of the church, which, of course, includes individual behavior. The challenge to “work out your own salvation” to the Philippians was both to all of them as a body and to each of them as its members.

Hughes, R. K. (2007). [*Philippians: the fellowship of the gospel*](#) (p. 98). Crossway Books.

Your Christian life is not personal matter it is a kingdom matter manifesting itself both privately and corporately.

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

Grumbling (gongysmos): murmuring; muttering

Romans 12:8 the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Disputing (dialogismos): reasoning; thought; balancing of accounts

To do all things without grumbling or disputing is to show tht you are a servant and saint of Christ Jesus. It is how the world will know that you love God and each other. They will know that you are my disciples by your love for one another Jesus said.

Philippians 2:15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Philippians 2:16 *holding fast to the word of life*, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Philippians 2:17–18 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

The Extras

Timothy

Philippians 2:19–23 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me,

Epaphroditus

Philippians 2:24–30 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also. ²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was

ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

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